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Agenda item 116

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Diego **Simancas** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 31st and 37th meetings, on 13 and 22 December 2006. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/61/SR.31 and 37).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/61/576) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/61/615).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.21

4. At the 37th meeting, on 22 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2008-2009" (A/C.5/61/L.21), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Nigeria.

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5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.21 without a vote (see para. 8).

B. Draft decision A/C.5/61/L.31

6. Also at its 37th meeting, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Questions deferred for future consideration" (A/C.5/61/L.31), submitted by the Chairman.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/61/L.31 without a vote (see para. 9).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2008-2009

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit in off-budget years an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Reaffirming also section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming further rule 153 of its rules of procedure,

Recalling its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2008-2009[1] and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. *Reaffirms* that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of the following:

(a) A preliminary estimate of resources needed to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

4. *Also reaffirms* that the budget outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium and promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process, thereby facilitating the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

5. *Further reaffirms* that the budget proposals of the Secretary-General should reflect resource levels commensurate with mandates for their full, efficient and effective implementation;

6. *Notes* that the budget outline is a preliminary estimate of resources;

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[1] A/61/576.

[2] See A/61/615.

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 on the basis of a preliminary estimate of 4,194,726,800 United States dollars at revised 2006-2007 rates;

8. *Decides* that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 shall contain provisions for recosting on the basis of the existing methodology;

9. *Decides also* that the priorities for the biennium 2008-2009 shall be the following:

(a) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of his preliminary indicative estimates contained in the proposed budget outline, to reflect the priorities outlined in paragraph 9 above when presenting the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009;

11. *Decides* that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate, namely at 31,460,500 dollars, that this amount shall be in addition to the overall level of the preliminary estimate and that it shall be used in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the experience of the utilization of the contingency fund and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

13. *Takes note* of the observation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 9 of its report[2] on the experiment for a limited discretion for budgetary implementation;

14. *Recalls* section III of its resolution 60/283, and stresses that the experiment for a limited discretion for budgetary implementation shall not imply any changes to the provisions guiding the use of the contingency fund.

9. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Questions deferred for future consideration

Section A

The General Assembly decides to defer to the resumed part of its sixty-first session consideration of the following agenda item and related documents:

Item 127
Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

(a) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 (A/61/264 (Part I) and Add.1 and 2);

(b) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of the programme and administrative management of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (A/61/61);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments on the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of programme and administrative management of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (A/61/61/Add.1);

Section B

The General Assembly decides to defer to its sixty-second session consideration of the following documents under agenda item 122:

Item 122
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the unpaid assessed contributions of the former Yugoslavia (A/60/140 and Corr.1);

(e) Letter dated 2 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.5/61/11);

(f) Letter dated 27 December 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/56/767);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General on the outstanding assessed contributions of the former Yugoslavia (A/58/189).